



**Date: August 31, 2016**

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

**RE: AUGUST 2016 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT**

### **CENTER OPERATIONS**

- **2016 Golf** meetings. Continuing to sign up sponsors and golfers.
- **Updated DRCI Golf website.**
- **Updated DRCI website.**
- Awarded **AT&T grant** for Girls Who Code Program.
- Working on a grant application for the **“Beaufort Fund”**.
- Working on a grant application for **MASC**.
- **DRCI Marketing Committee** Meeting.
- Met with finance regarding grants and DRCI budget items.
- Meeting with Town Manager Marc Orlando regarding **DRCI strategic planning**.

### **INNOVATORS**

- Currently there are **5 innovators** in the Center. We will stay at this level until mid Fall.
- All innovators are current with their monthly program fees.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month.
- Coordinating prototype development for Bluffton-based **Elongator**. Traveled to Liberty, SC with Steve DeSimone (innovator) to meet and discuss an agreement for this company to design and build five prototypes of the product. Multiple calls regarding this in the month of August.
- DRCI graduate **Page1 Media** has become our third and final **Entrepreneur in Residence**.
- Met with one potential **innovator** and scheduled a meeting with another.

### **OUTREACH, STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS**

- Met with one **potential DRCI Mentor**.
- Finalizing details for the **“Girls Who Code”** program. This program will run for 20 weeks and will start in early September from 7-9pm on Wednesdays. 20 girls have signed up for the program. Six girls are on the waiting list. Our local instructor has been approved.

- Continued conversations with the City of Beaufort about a **DRCI satellite location**. The DRCI submitted a new, streamlined partnership proposal based on feedback from that meeting. Waiting to hear back from the City regarding next steps.
- Spoke to a group of **SCAD business instructors about the DRCI program** and our ongoing involvement with SCAD. Brought two DRCI graduates who also gave small talks on entrepreneurship as well.
- Spoke with **Rock Hill Incubator** Director about their program and how they are utilizing the Clemson relationship.
- Met with a large local organization about a **sponsorship** with DRCI. We have given them a proposal for a few sponsorship options.
- Setting up all hardware and software needed for **Girls Who Code** program.

#### **TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS**

- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended **Town Council** meeting.
- Attended May River High Ribbon Cutting.